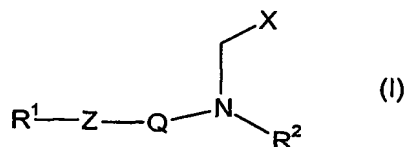


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



5 wherein

R¹ represents optionally substituted C₄₋₁₂ alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆alkylaryl, or optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl;

Z represents a bond, CH₂, O, S, SO, SO₂, NR⁴, OCR⁴R⁵, CR⁴R⁵O, or Z, R¹ and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

10 Q represents an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

X represents COR³ or N(OR⁸)COR⁹;

R² represents SO₂R¹⁰ or SO₂NR¹⁰R¹¹;

R³ represents OR⁶, NR⁶R⁷ or NR⁶OH;

R⁴ and R⁵ each independently represents H, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkylaryl;

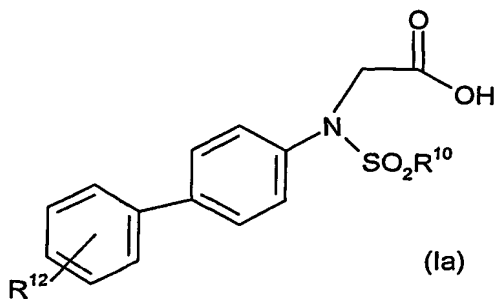
15 R⁶ and R⁷ each independently represents H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, or C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with one or more heteroaryl groups, or R⁶ and R⁷ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which may optionally include 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N;

R⁸ and R⁹ each independently represents H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

20 R¹⁰ and R¹¹ each independently represents H or C₁₋₆ alkyl; and

and physiologically functional derivatives thereof, with the exception of N-(ethoxycarbonyl)-N-[4-(1H-tetrazol-1-yl)phenyl]glycine.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 of formula (Ia):



wherein R^{10} represents H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{12} represents H, halo, CF_3 , cyano, OCF_3 , nitro, OR^{13} , SR^{13} , COR^{13} or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{13} represents C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkylaryl;

5 and physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 for use in medicine.

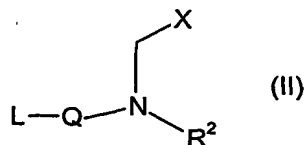
10 4. A method for the treatment of a human or animal subject suffering from or susceptible to an autoimmune disorder or an inflammatory condition which method comprises administering to said human or animal subject an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2.

15 5. The use of a compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of inflammatory conditions or autoimmune disorders.

20 6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor, and optionally one or more other therapeutic agents.

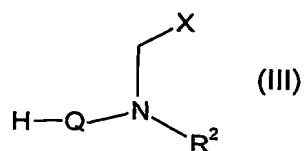
7. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which process comprises:

25 (A) for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) wherein Z represents a bond and R^1 represents an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkylaryl or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl, reacting a compound of formula (II):



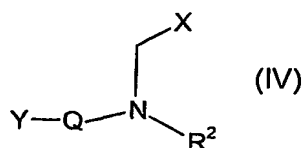
30 wherein R^2 , Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and L represents a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R^1 ; or

(B) for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) wherein Z represents a bond and R^1 represents an optionally substituted C_{4-12} alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (III):



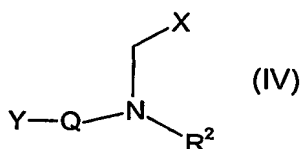
wherein R^2 , Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I), with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R^1 ; or

- 5 (C) for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) wherein Z represents O, S, SO, SO_2 , NR^4 or OCR^4R^5 , and R^1 represents an optionally substituted C_{4-12} alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV):



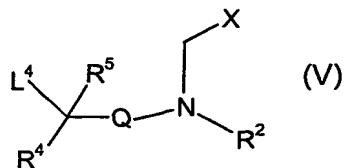
- 10 wherein X, R^2 and Q are as previously defined for formula (I), and Y represents OH, SH, NR^4H or HCR^4R^5 , with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R^1 followed in the case where Y is SH by optional oxidation of the sulphide to the sulfoxide or the sulfone; or

- 15 (D) for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) wherein Z represents O, S, SO, SO_2 , or NR^4 , and R^1 represents an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkylaryl or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, reacting a compound of formula (IV):



wherein X, R^2 and Q are as previously defined for formula (I), and Y represents OH, SH or NR^4H , with a reagent suitable to couple to the group R^1 , followed in the case where Y is SH by optional oxidation of the sulphide to the sulfoxide or the sulfone; or

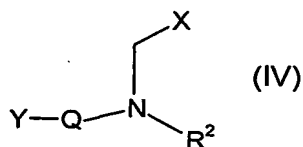
- 20 (E) for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) wherein Z represents OCR^4R^5 and R^1 represents an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkylaryl or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, reacting a compound of formula (V):



wherein X, R² and Q are as previously defined for formula (I) and L⁴ is a suitable leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R¹-O; or

5

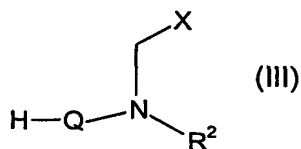
(F) for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) wherein Z represents CR⁴R⁵O, reacting a compound of formula (IV) :



wherein R² and Q are as previously defined for formula (I), and Y represents OH, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R¹CR⁴R⁵-; or

10

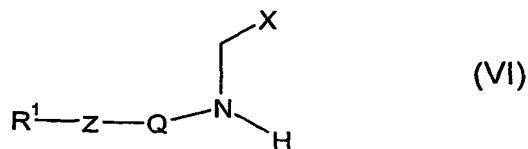
(G) for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) wherein Z represents CH₂, reacting a compound of formula (III):



wherein R², Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I), with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R¹CH₂;

15

(H) reacting a compound of formula (VI)



20

or a protected derivative thereof, wherein R^1 , Z, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I), with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R^2 as previously defined for formula (I): or

- 5 (J) carrying out a process selected from processes (A) to (G) followed by interconversion of one or more functional groups.